course. At this stage the question of fixing percentage of seats for different categories therefore, does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is already a scheme of Central Pool of MBBS/BDS seats in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare wherein the States/Union Territories and certain medical educational institutions are contributing MBBS/BDS seats on voluntary basis every year. Certain seats, depending upon the availability of seats from this Pool are allocated to the Ministry of Defence for admission of (i) Sons/daughters of deceased/disabled and Gallantry awards and other award winners of the Armed Forces, and (ii) Widows/Wives of deceased/disabled Armed Forces Personnel.

National drive for eradication of Cancer

2178. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cancer cases in the country are continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to launch a national drive against this dreaded ailment like T.B., leprosy etc. to eradicate it; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) Time trend analysis of the data from population-based cancer registries over the last decade shows a small but significant increase in the overall incidence of cancer in the urban cancer registries, among both men and women.

Though there are year-to-year variations, available data suggest that incidence of certain cancers like cancer of oesophagus, gall bladder, lung, stomach and rectum has shown increase in some registries, while incidence of cancer of mouth, pharynx and cervix has shown a downward trend in certain registries.

(b) The State-wise distribution of cancer cases in India is not available.

(c) and (d) This Ministry is already implementing the National Cancer Control Programme, the Revised National T.B. Control Programme (widely known

as DOTS) and the National Leprosy Eradication Programme with the objective of eliminating/controlling these dreaded diseases.

Population Control Programmes

2179. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have stopped the population control programmes;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that we have achieved full control over growing population;

(c) if not, where are those awareness programmes such as showing documentaries, slogans about small family, advertisements in print and electronic media which were found everywhere from cinema slides to distracted walls and restricted only to PHCs of villages; and

(d) the statistics about achievements since 1991 ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has adopted the National Population Policy, 2000 which has a holistic approach to the entire issue of population stabilisation and sustainable development in the country. The policy enumerates certain socio-demographic goals to be achieved by 2010 through implementation of strategic themes and action plan outlined for them. By implementation of these strategies, it is expected that stable population will be achieved in the country by 2045.

(c) The following steps have been taken by Government for increasing awareness about various population stabilisation strategies and Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme by vigorous publicity efforts :

(i) An intensive campaign has been launched to create knowledge on family planning methods and techniques through electronic and print media.

(ii) The healthy mother-healthy child messages are spots before the Morning and Evening National news. Before and after Regional News one spot on No Scalpel Vasectomy is broadcast in the afternoon.

(iii) 36 kendras of All India Radio have been asked to broadcast the messages of Reproductive and Child Health. Video spots on